



Testimony by
Kansas Independent Pharmacy Service Corporation
Supporting HB 2646
House Committee on Health and Human Services
March 8, 2016

Chairman Hawkins and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

The Kansas Independent Pharmacy Service Corporation (KPSC) provides purchasing and operations services for many independent pharmacies across Kansas. The current practice of many independents includes the provision of vaccine services for local patients. KPSC stands in support of House Bill 2646, which would allow pharmacists to administer all vaccines to any person age six and above.

The current Kansas statute allows a pharmacist, pharmacy student or intern to administer influenza vaccines to persons age six or above and other vaccines to persons age 18 and above. Any pharmacist, pharmacy student or intern who provides such vaccines, must complete an approved course of study/training regarding vaccines, including injection technique, emergency procedures and appropriate recordkeeping. A course in CPR must also be successfully completed.

Currently, all 50 states allow pharmacists to administer vaccinations. There are some variations in each state's laws and regulations governing pharmacy practice and, specifically, vaccine administration by pharmacists. There are many well-established certificate programs available to pharmacists to receive all the appropriate training to provide vaccines. Also, the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy has all students receive vaccination training prior to graduation. Most graduates remain in Kansas to practice pharmacy.

Today, vaccines are commonly administered by many retail pharmacies. More importantly, the provision of vaccinations is a key public health issue and all states are trying to improve vaccination rates to reduce vaccine-preventable diseases and deaths. Increased access to health care provider sites, like retail pharmacies that provide vaccines, is paramount to this improvement. Retail pharmacies have personnel with the appropriate training and procedures to administer vaccines and provide the convenience for many patients to receive them. Given all these facts, we strongly urge your support of this bill.

Please direct any questions on this testimony to Peter Stern, KPSC CEO, at psfern@kspharmserv.com or at 1-800-279-3022.